Sent to:

Mr Hammarberg, Amnesty Int

Mr MacDermot, Int Commission of Jurists

Mr Lefever, Dept of State (+copy of previous letter)

Lord Avebury

Int Federation for the Rights of Man

Mr Bentoumi, Int Association of Democratic Lawyers

Mr David France, The Int League for Human Rights

Dr Kurt Waldheim, UN Commission on Human Rights

Mr Andrew Faulds MP (under covering letter)

Society of Human Rights Supporters, Cairo (under covering letter)

المجلس الإسلامي الأوروبي
Islamic Council of Europe

26 February 1981

I should be grateful if you would refer to our previous correspondence about Dr. Necmettin Erbakan and his colleagues, who have been under detention since the military coup in Turkey last September.

Information that has reached us recently, from extremely reliable sources, indicates that trials are likely to be held in the near future and that they will be before martial, and not ordinary, courts. This conflicts with the assurances given to me in a letter from the Turkish Ambassador in London, in reply to my letters to General Evren, that no special courts would be set up and that the trials would be conducted with absolute impartiality by independent Turkish judges.

Trial by martial court is of course a contravention of basic human rights, and I appeal to you to take whatever action you can to urge the Turkish Government to give Dr. Erbakan, and all others in a similar position, a fair, free and public trial, during the course of which justice can be seen to be done, and after which those adjudged be allowed recourse to appeal procedures should the judgements go against them.

There is a very wide interest in the situation in Turkey, reflected in the international press, and it is our hope that united and strong action by all who believe in freedom and justice will result in convincing the Turkish Government that it must act in accordance with international declarations of human rights, and, specifically, in line with Articles 10 and 11 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I am sure that I can rely on you to do your utmost to try to ensure that justice is done.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

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